

Regional Service Areas Progress Report

Washington State Association of Counties
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Agenda

Common Goals

Background

Why Regional Service Areas?

Why do Counties care so much?

How is WSAC getting there?

Where is WSAC right now?

Next Steps

Goals of SB 6312

- Consistency in outcomes
- Cost effectiveness
- Improvement in the lives of who we serve through integration of service
- Increased availability of service

Background

Why Regional Service Areas?

- Integration of Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Systems
- Create common referral and service regions for medical and behavioral health services
- Larger Regional Service Areas mitigate risk and state administration is simplified

This Isn't Just Geography

- Counties retain the first right of refusal to provide services within these regions
- Creating Regional Service Areas is the first step towards becoming a Behavioral Health Organization
- Counties assume additional financial risk

The Seattle Times

Driver in wreck that killed pedestrians had 2 DUI arrests

Two people were killed and a young woman and 10-day-old infant were clinging to life after a pickup ran into a group of pedestrians crossing a busy street near Nathan Eckstein Middle School.

March 25, 2013

THE NEWS TRIBUNE

[thenewstribune.com]

Pierce County Jail makes a poor psychiatric hospital

Treating the mentally ill on the cheap can cost a fortune. The shocking overtime costs at Pierce County Jail are yet another example.

August 13, 2012

THE NEWS TRIBUNE

[thenewstribune.com]

Review panel often disagrees with Western State releases

Three years of decisions by a state panel of experts suggest Western State Hospital underestimates or downplays risks to public safety in its efforts to release mentally ill patients previously charged with violent crimes.

December 29, 2013

The Seattle Times

Do state's tough DUI laws go far enough?

Last Monday, police say, Mark W. Mullan, with five previous DUI arrests, plowed his pickup into a family, killing two and severely injuring a mother and newborn. Despite Washington's tough drunken-driving laws, state lawmakers are asking if those laws need to be even tougher.

March 25, 2013

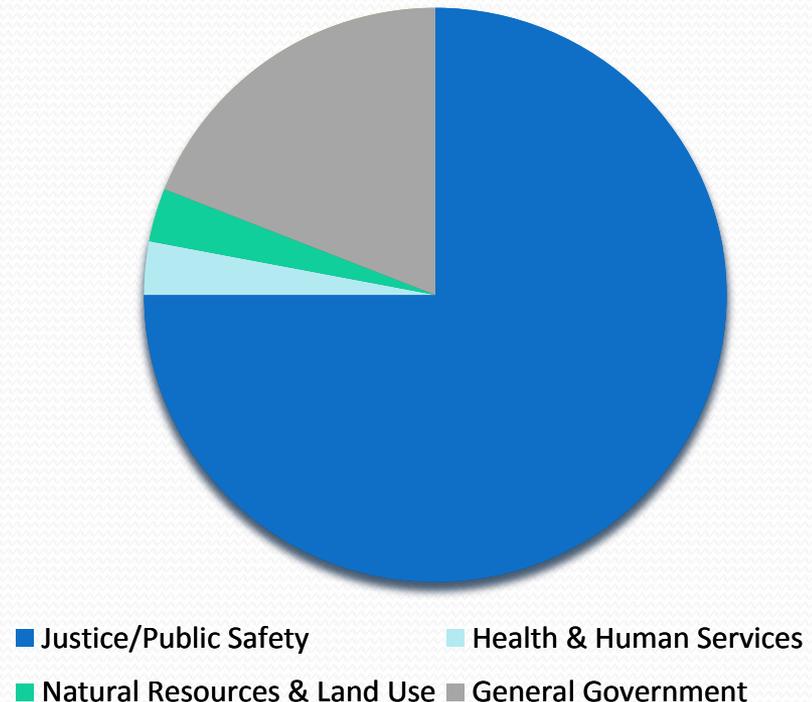
Why Counties Care

It's Local

Where we live and the people we serve

- Mental Health and Chemical Dependency
- Jails
- Law Enforcement
- Superior and District Courts
- Public Health

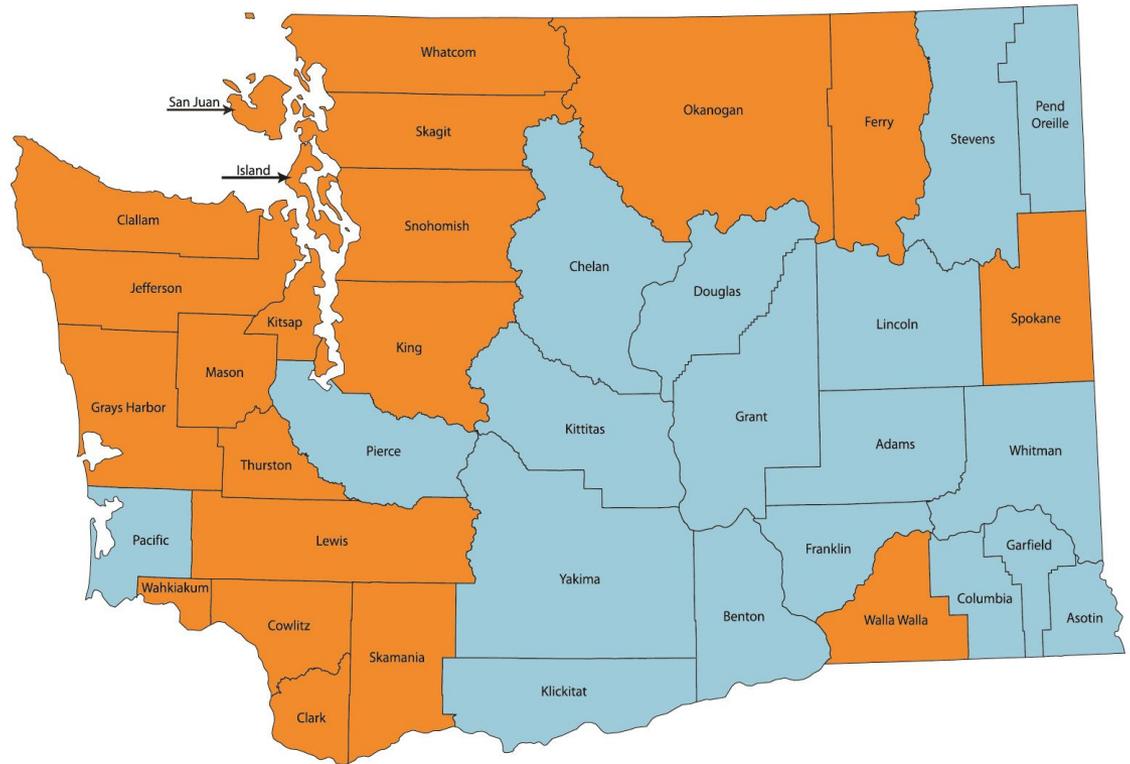
Current Expense



Nearly 80% of County Expenses

Everything's Connected

- Counties have taken the hard vote
- It's working



Counties that passed local option sales tax

County Services Make Sense

- **\$1 Saves \$7**
 - Investment in Chemical Dependency saves in other systems
- **We treat the hardest to engage and the most costly to serve**
- We aren't just crisis services, we offer a continuum of care
- **We are incentivized to get them well and keep them well**

Regional Service Areas

SB 6312 requires Regional Service Areas to:

- Include full counties that are contiguous with one another;
- Reflect natural medical and behavioral health referral patterns; and
- Include a sufficient number of Medicaid lives to support full financial risk

**How is WSAC getting
there?**

Process

Step

Status

WSAC Internal Behavioral
Health Systems
Integration Work Group

Complete

Questions to State
Agencies

In process

Letters of Intent from
Individual Counties

Complete

Further review of answers
from the state

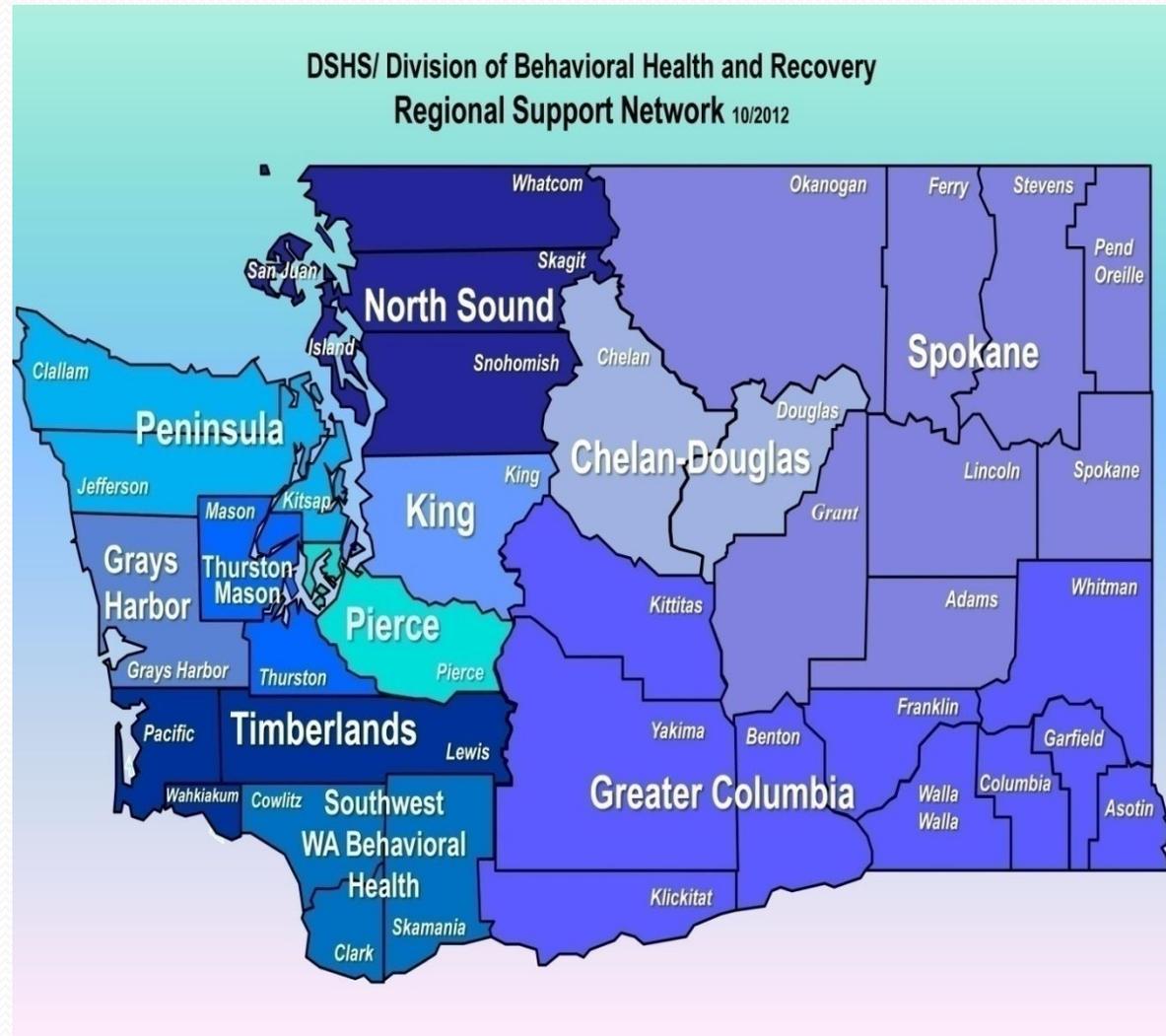
In process

WSAC Legislative Steering
Committee Votes

In process

Status Update

- All 39 Counties responded to request for letter of intent
- Most intend to stay within their current service region
- Several identified key concerns and unanticipated consequences



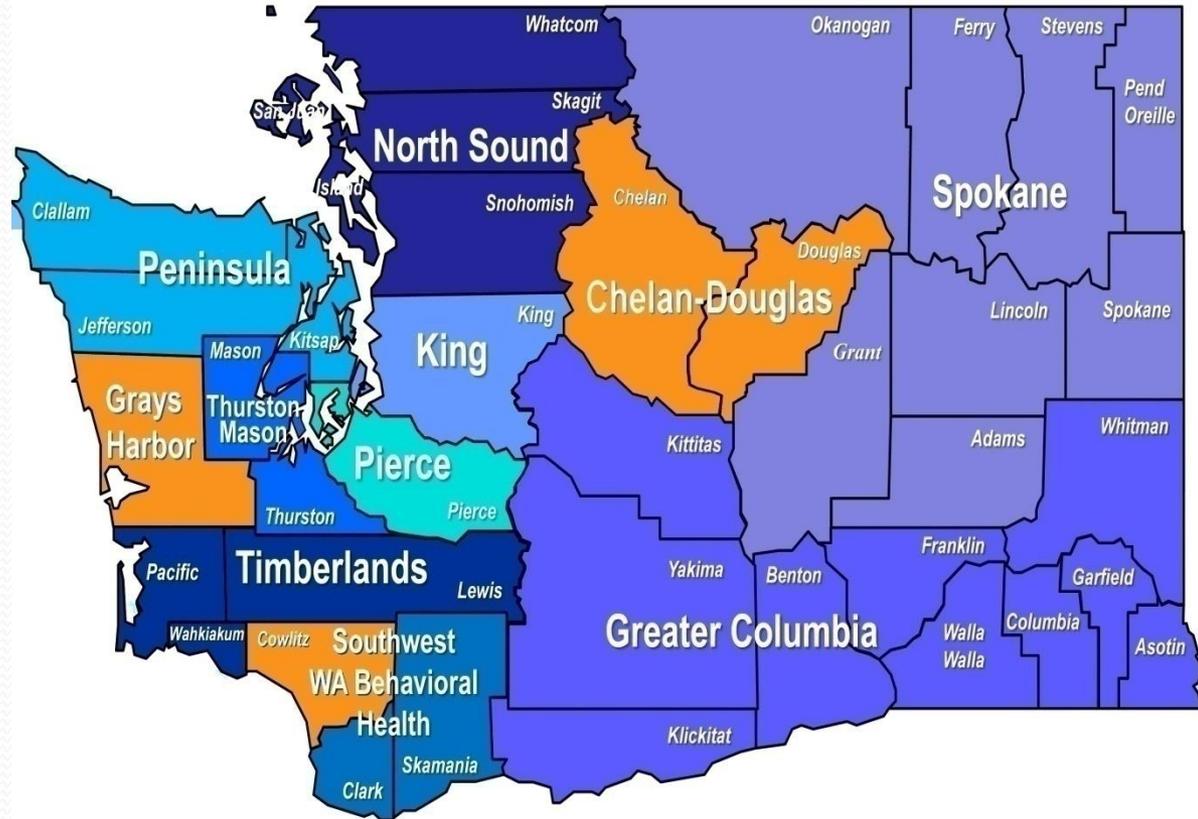
FINDINGS

Regions that wish to remain unchanged:

- King
- Pierce
- Peninsula
- Thurston-Mason
- North Sound
- Spokane
- Greater Columbia

Counties considering changes:

- Cowlitz
- Grays Harbor
- Chelan
- Douglas
- * Klickitat
- * Clallam



Broad Issues with RSA Criteria

Contiguous, Full Counties

- Common boundaries
- Wahkiakum Co. tied to Cowlitz
- Need commitment that existing partnerships can continue to exist

Reflect Natural Medical and Behavioral Health Referral Patterns

- Inter-local agreements between Regional Service Areas...and states
- Depending upon where someone lives in the County will determine where they get referred for service - Klickitat

Minimum Number of Medicaid Covered Lives

- Moving recommendations
- Are these smaller RSA's feasible long term?
- Desire to understand criteria

County Concerns with SB 6312

Timelines

- Required services still unknown
- Reimbursement rates still unknown
- Local work still to be done
- Review of full data on Healthy Options Plans
- Unknown regions for Accountable Communities of Health

Next Steps

- We request full data from state agencies by June 20th
- If Chelan –Douglas or Grays Harbor mergers are not agreed upon, WSAC Legislative Steering Committee will review and make recommendation